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## **Istook Sponsors Tax Cut To Promote American Values**

*Washington, D.C.* -- Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) joined in introducing a tax cut plan designed to encourage American values. The plan would reduce taxes by \$778 billion over 10 years--without touching the Social Security surplus.

**“We need to reward responsible behavior, not punish it,”** said Istook. **“Our tax system currently places extra penalties to Americans who value marriage, savings, initiative and hard work. If you’re married, you pay a marriage penalty; if you save, you’re taxed on that; if you start a business, you’re hit with extra taxes. It’s wrong to penalize Americans for having strong, positive values.”**

The plan would eliminate the marriage penalty, eliminate the death tax, expand IRAs, expand education savings, and cut the capital gains tax. The average married couple pays \$1,400 a year more in taxes than if they could file as two single individuals.

**“Building a family, a marriage, and a business are hard enough without bearing the extra burden of tax penalties for doing these. Government should not punish those who prepare for their future,”** said Istook.

The plan would also eliminate hundreds of pages from the IRS code. The plan uses the non-Social Security surplus over the next ten years to fund the tax cuts which would help preserve family businesses and farms, create new jobs, encourage investment, and promote family values.

The tax package is being promoted by the Conservative Action Team (CATS), the leading group of House conservatives. Istook is a founder of CATS.